Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ALEXAN 00960 061351Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 DHA-05 MCT-01 OPR-02 /065 W
----------113746 061445Z /47
R 061328Z SEP 77
FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1218
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALEXANDRIA 0960

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SCUL, EG
SUBJECT: COPTIC UNREST

REF: CAIRO 14314

1. LOCAL COPT WHOSE BROTHER IN HIGH IN COPTIC HIERARCHY INFORMED CONSULATE OFFICER TODAY THAT COPTIC COMMUNITY IS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED AND IN DISPUTE WITH GOE OVER RECENT GOE CENSUS IN KFAR EL-SHEIK WHERE COPTIC TALLY INDICATES THEIR POPULATION TO BE ABOUT FOUR TIME WHAT GOE FIGURES ALLEGE.

2. MORE IMPORTANTLY SOURCE CONFIRMED RUMOR WE FIRST HEARD THIS MORNING THAT STARTING YESTERDAY AND CONTINUING THROUGH THURSDAY COPTIC CHURCHES IN ALEXANDRIA ARE HOLDING AN AROUND THE CLOCK VIGIL AND FAST IN THEIR CHURCHES TO DEMONSTRATE OPPOSTION TO RECENT AND PROPOSED CHANGES IN EGYPTIAN LAW WHICH BRING IT MORE INTO LINE WITH ISLAMCI RELIGIOUS DOCTRINE. IN ADDITION HE REPORTS ONGOING MEETINGS AT HIGHEST LEVEL OF COPTIC CHURCH TO DEVELOP COUNTER STRATEGY TO ABOVE.

3. CONCERNING 1856 LAW (REFTEL) ANOTHER LEADING COPT RECENTLY RELATED TO CONSULATE OFFICER AMAZING SPEED AND RAPIDITY WITH WHICH MOSQUES CAN APPEAR WHEREEVER COPTIC COMMUNITY GET INTO CONFIDENTIAL

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SPECIFICS ABOUT LOCATION OF NEW CHURCHES.

4. WE WILL SEEK ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON ABOVE POINTS, BUT GIVEN NERVOUSNESS OF COPTIC COMMUNITY WE PLAN PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY.
CHASE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, LAW, RELIGIOUS GROUPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ALEXAN00960
Document Source: CORE
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770322-0073
Format: TEL
From: ALEXANDRIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770997/aaaaddme.tel
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Reference: 77 CAIRO 14314
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
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SAS ID: 1384283
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COPTIC UNREST
TAGS: SCUL, PINT, EG
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